

## CLAIMS

1           1. A method for determining a nervous system malfunction caused  
2       by spinal pressure in a nerve branch of a patient, said method comprising the  
3       steps of:

4                 performing a four-point vertical spine check;  
5                 recording leg length change and rate of change information of the  
6       patient that occur in response to performing the four-point vertical spine check;  
7                 adding the leg length changes to obtain a total;  
8                 performing a horizontal spine check;  
9                 recording a difference in leg length noted from performing the  
10      horizontal spine check; and  
11                 adding the total obtained from the vertical spine check to the total  
12      obtained from the horizontal spine check to determine an indicator value  
13      wherein said indicator value and said rate of change information are used to  
14      assist a healthcare professional in determining the nervous system malfunction  
15      and to provide the healthcare professional with treatment information for  
16      analyzing and correcting the nervous system malfunction.

1           2. The method of claim 1 wherein the horizontal spine check  
2       comprises the steps of:

3                 placing a patient in a prone position on an examination table;  
4                 lifting the patient's heels to a 90-degree angle with respect to the knees  
5       of the patient while maintaining the knees of the patient in contact with the  
6       examination table; and  
7                 noting and recording the difference in length of the patient's legs as the  
8       legs stand at the 90-degree angle.

1           3. The method of determining and treating a nervous system  
2       malfunction caused by spinal pressure in one or more nerve branches of a  
3       patient as defined in claim 1 and in which said vertical spine check is

4       performed by applying pressure to the patient at four selected locations along  
5       an extension of the patient's pant leg meridian.

1           4.      The method of dynamically determining and augmenting  
2       treatment of a nervous system malfunction as defined in claim 1 and in which  
3       said horizontal spine check comprises measuring and comparing the distance  
4       between each of the patient's legs and the examination table while the patient is  
5       in a prone position with the legs bent 90 degrees at the knees.